

**Continuous Household Survey**  
Year 2015

**The average number of households in Spain increased by 43,100 during 2015 and stood at 18,346,200**

**The average household size remained at 2.51 people, the same as the previous year**

**The number of people living alone increased again, reaching 4,584,200, which was 25.0% of all households**

**Households**

The number of households in Spain increased again in 2015 and reached 18,346,200 as an average value, which represented a 0.2% increase over the previous year (43,100 more homes).

This increase occurred despite a decrease of 0.1% in the population resident in family homes due to the reduction in the number of people living in each household. Nevertheless, the average size remained at 2.51 persons per household.

The most common households in 2015 remained those made up of two people (30.6% of the total). They were followed by single-person homes (25.0%), although the population included in these only accounted for 10.0% of the total.

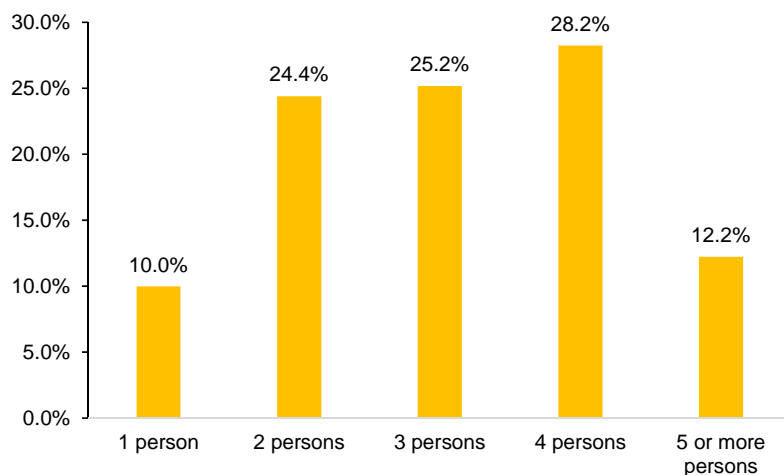
Meanwhile, households of five or more persons constituted 5.8% of the total. Their average size was 5.3 persons and in them was concentrated 12.2% of the population.

**Households and population by household size. Year 2015**

	<b>Households</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Population(*)</b>	<b>%</b>
TOTAL	18,346,200	100.0%	45,957,700	100.0%
1 person	4,584,200	25.0%	4,584,200	10.0%
2 persons	5,606,700	30.6%	11,213,500	24.4%
3 persons	3,854,700	21.0%	11,564,200	25.2%
4 persons	3,243,200	17.7%	12,973,000	28.2%
5 or more persons	1,057,300	5.8%	5,622,900	12.2%

(\*) The total population is considered to be that resident in family dwellings, thus excluding those people residing in collective establishments

**Population by size of the household in which it lives. Year 2015**



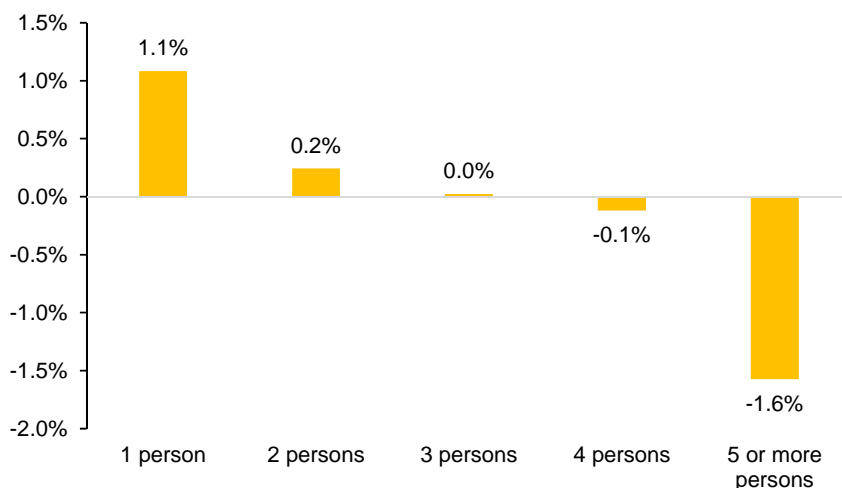
Smaller households (with one or two persons) again grew in number. The largest increase occurred in single-person households, which amounted to 4,584,200 as the average value in 2015, an increase of 1.1% over 2014. Single-person households accounted for 25.0% of the total, compared with 24.8% in 2014.

Meanwhile, households of four persons and five or more persons decreased in number, with those of five or more members recording the largest decline (1.6%). The three-person households, which fell by 0.4% in 2014, increased very slightly.

**Households by household size. Evolution 2014-2015**

	Year 2015	Year 2014	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Total households	18,346,200	18,303,100	43,100	0.2%
1 person	4,584,200	4,535,100	49,100	1.1%
2 persons	5,606,700	5,593,000	13,700	0.2%
3 persons	3,854,700	3,853,800	900	0.0%
4 persons	3,243,200	3,247,100	-3,900	-0.1%
5 or more persons	1,057,300	1,074,200	-16,900	-1.6%
Average size	2.51	2.51	-0.01	-0.3%

**Increase in households in 2014-15 by household size**



### Most common types of household. Year 2015

	CHS-2015	%	CHS-2014	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
TOTAL	18,346,200	100.0%	18,303,100	100.0%	43,100	0.2%
Single-person household	4,584,200	25.0%	4,535,100	24.8%	49,100	1.1%
Couple without children living at home	3,874,800	21.1%	3,978,600	21.7%	-103,800	-2.6%
Couple with children living in the home	6,253,100	34.1%	6,333,800	34.6%	-80,700	-1.3%
- With 1 child	2,905,600	15.8%	2,946,300	16.1%	-40,700	-1.4%
- With 2 children	2,778,600	15.1%	2,792,600	15.3%	-14,000	-0.5%
- With 3 or more children	569,000	3.1%	594,900	3.3%	-25,900	-4.4%
Single-parent home (one adult with children)	1,897,500	10.3%	1,754,700	9.6%	142,800	8.1%
Household comprising a family nucleus with other people	786,100	4.3%	786,500	4.3%	-400	-0.1%
Household with more than one family nucleus	380,000	2.1%	369,400	2.0%	10,600	2.9%
Persons who do not form a family nucleus	570,500	3.1%	545,100	3.0%	25,400	4.7%

### Households comprising couples

The number of households comprising couples, married or de facto, was the largest in 2015, with 10.1 million made up exclusively of couples with or without children.

Based on the number of children living with the couple, in Spain there were 3.87 million households consisting of couples without children, 2.91 million couples with one child and 2.78 million couples with two children. Compared to 2014, the number of households of couples without children decreased by 2.6% and that of couples with children by 1.3% (in particular, the figure for couples with two children was that which fell the least, by 0.5%).

Meanwhile, the number of couples living with three or more children decreased by 4.4% and stood at 569,000, representing 3.1% of total households.

If we include other types of household where apart from the couple there are also other members, this gave a figure of 10.7 million households in which a couple was living. And if we include households with more than one couple, a total of 11.2 million was reached.

### Couples

	Year 2015	%	Year 2014	%	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Total couples	11,214,900		11,402,000		-187,100	-1.6%
Different sex	11,121,500	99.2%	11,310,100	99.2%	-188,600	-1.7%
Same-sex	93,400	0.8%	91,900	0.8%	1,500	1.6%
Legal couples	9,586,200	85.5%	9,799,100	85.9%	-212,900	-2.2%
De facto persons (couples)	1,628,700	14.5%	1,602,900	14.1%	25,800	1.6%

Married couples accounted for 85.5% of the total in 2015 and de facto couples 14.5% (in 69.6% of the cases, both of the members were single). The number of de facto couples increased by 1.6%, while that of married couples fell by 2.2%.

Heterosexual couples accounted for 99.2% of the total and homosexual couples for 0.8%. Among the latter group, 56.6% were made up of men and 43.4% of women. The number of employed persons decreased by 1.6% compared with 2014.

### Single-person households

In Spain there were 4,584,200 single-person households in 2015. Of this figure, 1,859,800 (40.6%) were people aged 65 or more and living alone. And, of these, 72.9% were women (1,356,300 households).

As for people under 65 living alone in 2015, the majority were men (1,606,300 or 59.0%). Meanwhile, the number of women under 65 living alone came to 1,118,000.

Compared to the average values from 2014, the number of single-person households recorded an increase of 1.1%. In absolute terms, this meant 49,100 more households.

It should be noted that there was an increase in both single-person households of people aged 65 and older and those under 65. However, the increase was lower in the former group (0.3% vs. 1.6%).

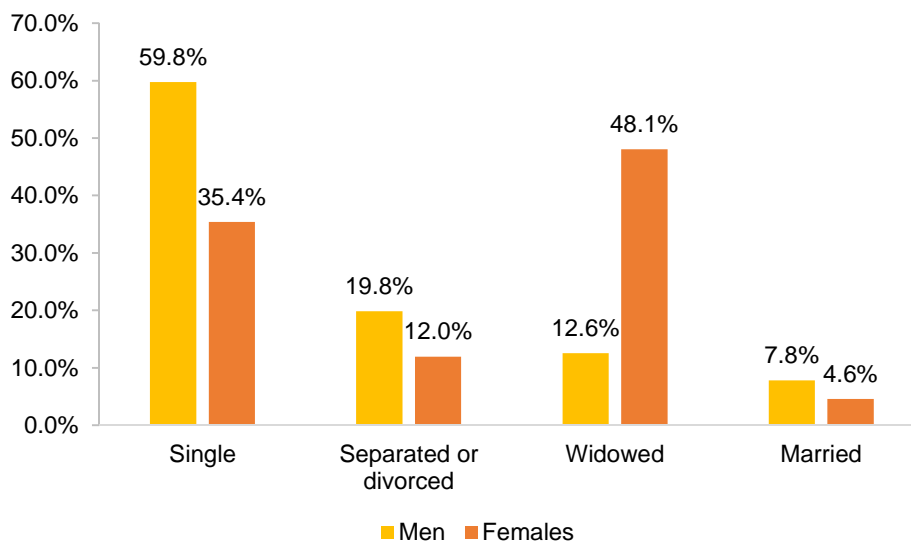
By sex, single-person households with women grew by 2.6%, while those of men decreased by 0.6%.

### Single-person households by age and sex

Age	Sex	Year 2015	Year 2014	Absolute Variation	Relative Variation
Under 65 years old	TOTAL	2,724,400	2,681,400	43,000	1.6%
	Man	1,606,300	1,606,600	-300	0.0%
	Women	1,118,000	1,074,800	43,200	4.0%
65 years old and over	TOTAL	1,859,800	1,853,700	6,100	0.3%
	Man	503,500	516,000	-12,500	-2.4%
	Women	1,356,300	1,337,700	18,600	1.4%

With regard to marital status, in the case of men the most frequent single-person households were made up of singles (59.8%) and in that of women by widows (48.1%).

### Single-person households by marital status. Year 2015

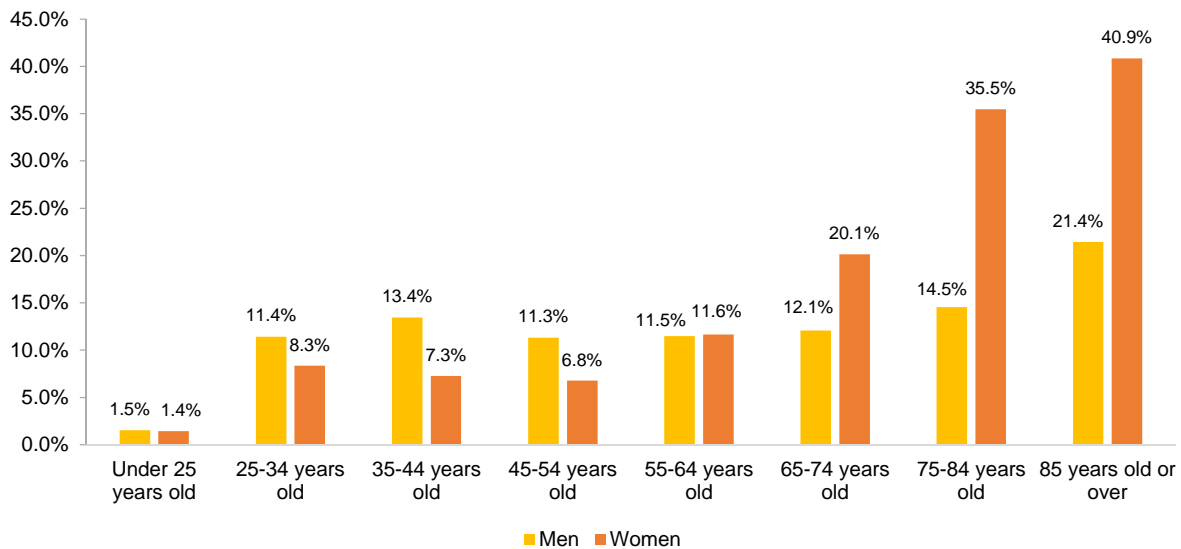


By age, 40.9% of women aged 85 and older lived alone, compared with 21.4% of men.

The propensity<sup>1</sup> to live alone differs by sex and age. Thus in 2015 it was higher in men up to 55 years of age and higher in women from 65 years and over.

In younger age groups (under 25) the propensity to live alone was only 1.5% in men and 1.4% in women.

### Propensity to live alone by sex and age. Year 2015



### Single-parent households

Single-parent households, i.e. those which are formed by one single parent with children, in 2015 mostly comprised a mother with children (1,541,700, 81.3% of the total, compared to 355,700 comprising a father with children). In two out of three single-parent households (67.4%), the parent lived with only one child.

The number of households comprising a mother with children increased by 6.3% compared to 2014, while that of a father with children increased by 16.9%. In all, they grew by 8.1%.

In 38.5% of households comprising mothers with children, the mother was a widow, in 36.4% separated or divorced, in 13.1% single and in 12.1% of households the mother was married.

By age, 75.7% of the 201,300 households with a single mother with children consisted of women 35 years old or more.

In almost a third of single-parent households (32.8%), the parent was 65 years old or more, while those with the parent under 35 years old did not reach 5.0%.

In 17.6% of households with a father with children, the parents were under 45 years old, while in those of mothers with children, this percentage was 26.4%.

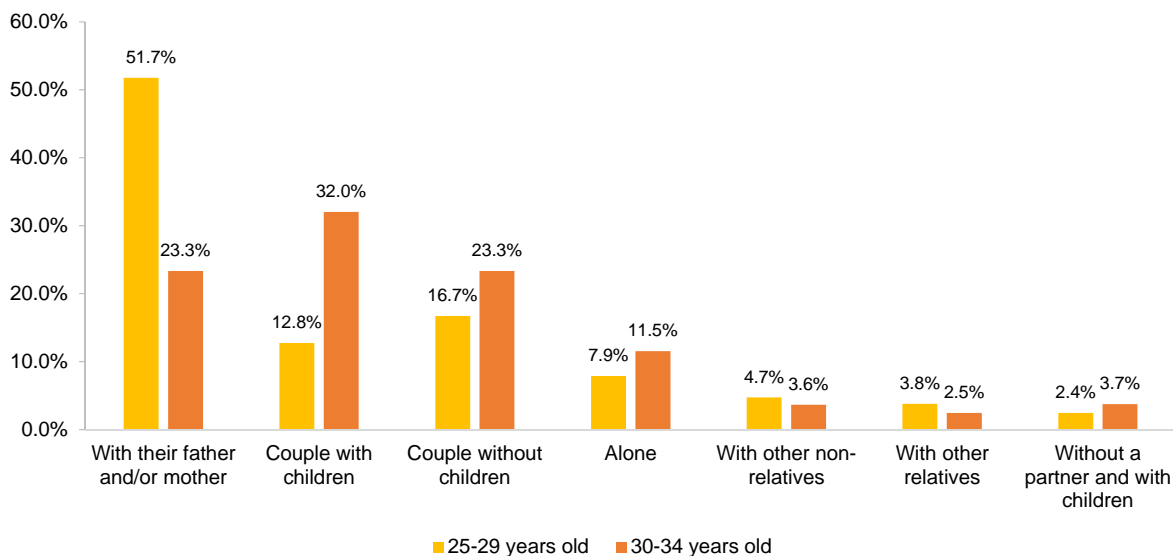
<sup>1</sup> We give the term "propensity" to the ratio between the number of people in each age group living alone and the total number of people in that age group.

## Emancipation: people between 25 and 34 years old

One in three of the 5,748,700 people between 25 and 34 years of age had not yet left their parents' home in 2015. Most often, they lived with their parents or with one of them (36.1%), as a couple with children (23.4%) or as a couple without children (20.3%).

Emancipation was lower among the younger age groups. Thus one of every two young people between 25 and 29 years of age still lived with their parents, compared to one in four between 30 and 34 years of age.

### Types of cohabitation among young people between 25 and 34 years of age. Year 2015



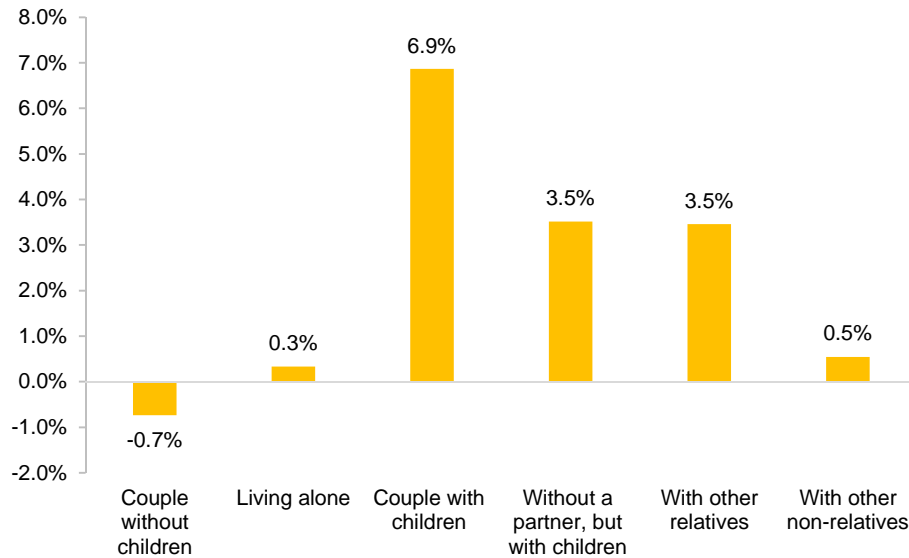
## Elderly persons

The most common form of cohabitation in people 65 years old or over living in family households in 2015 was a couple without children at home (45.0%), followed by those who were single (22.4%) and couples with children (15.4%).

Among people 85 years old and over, the most common way was living alone (34.2% of the total), followed by living as a couple without children at home (23.4%) and living with other relatives who are neither their partner nor their children (20.2%).

Between 2014 and 2015 people aged 65 and over increased by 1.3%, with the largest increase among those living in couples with children (6.9%). There was also an increase in the elderly living without a partner but with children and those living with other relatives who are neither their partner nor their children (3.5% in both cases). On the contrary, those who lived in a couple without children fell by 0.7%.

**Variation 2014-2015 in the type of cohabitation of people over 64 years old**

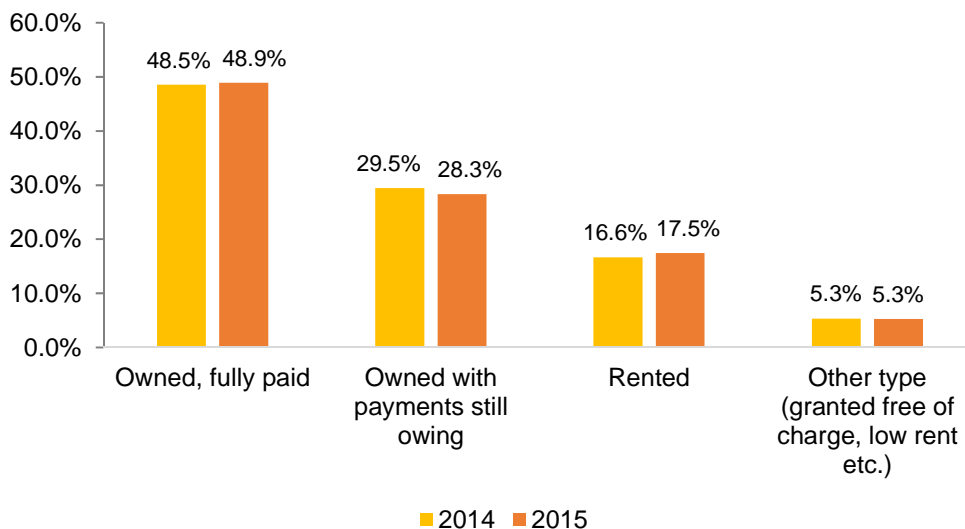


**Tenure status of dwelling**

In 2015, 77.3% of households occupied homes they owned, both with and without outstanding payments to make. This percentage was somewhat lower than the 78.0% observed in 2014, although it should be noted that the proportion of households with outstanding payments has been reduced from 29.5% (the 2014 average) to 28.3% in 2015.

Meanwhile, households living in rented dwellings went from 16.6% of the total in 2014 to 17.5% in 2015.

**Variation 2014-2015 in tenure status of dwelling**



The tenure status of dwellings varies according to nationality. Thus, 59.7% of households with at least one foreign member lived in rented dwellings, compared to 12.0% of households with all members of Spanish nationality.

The percentage of households with at least one foreign member owning the home with outstanding payments continues to decline. Specifically, it fell from 20.2% in 2014 to 18.7% in 2015.

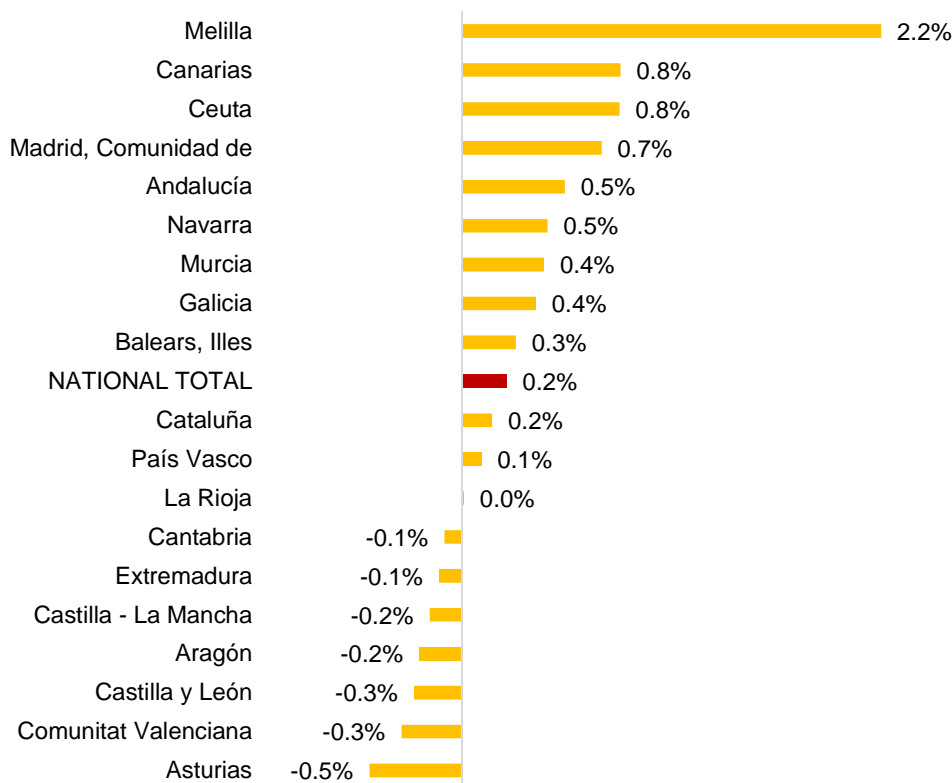
In households with all members of Spanish nationality the decline has been smaller, going from the average value of 30.7% in 2014 to 29.6% in 2015.

### Number of households and average size by Autonomous Region

The number of households grew nationally by 0.2% in 2015. The largest increases occurred in the autonomous cities of Melilla (2.2%) and Ceuta (0.8%), in the Canarias (0.8%) and Madrid (0.7%).

By contrast, the largest declines occurred in Principado de Asturias (-0.5%), Valencia and Castilla y León (-0.3% in each case).

### 2014-2015 relative variation in the number of households by Autonomous Community

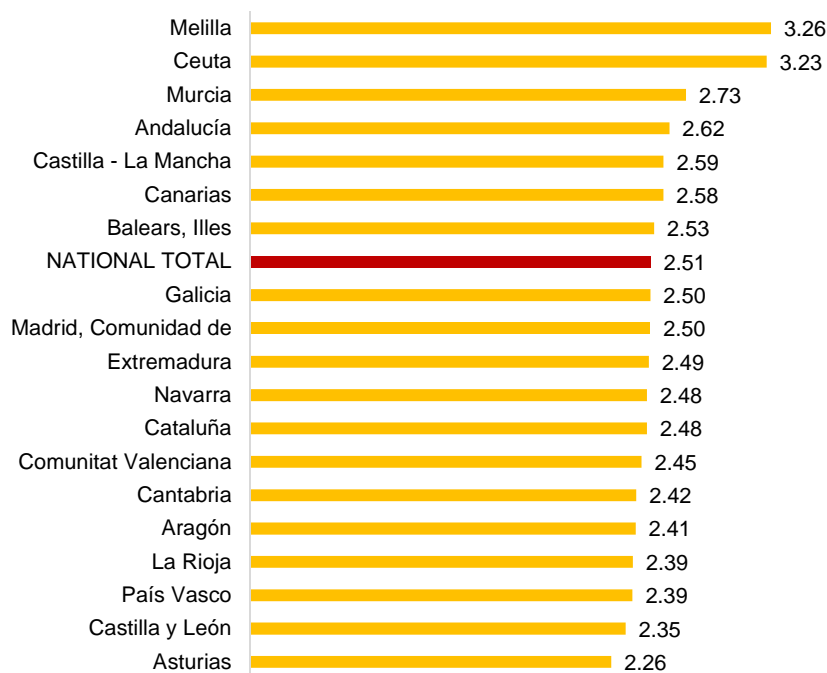


As for the average household size, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla had the highest level, with more than three people in both cases. Next came Murcia (2.73 persons) and Andalusia (2.62).

At the opposite end were Principado de Asturias (2.26 persons per household), Castilla y León (2.35) and the País Vasco and La Rioja (2.39 in each case).



### Average household size by Autonomous Region. Year 2015



The autonomous cities of Melilla (20.8%) and Ceuta (19.4%) and Murcia (9.0%) had the highest percentages of households with five or more members. At the other end of the scale, Principado de Asturias (3.1%), Castilla y León (3.8%) and the País Vasco (3.9%) had the lowest percentages.

Principado de Asturias was the region with the highest percentage of people living alone in 2015. Specifically, 29.4% of homes were single-person households. It was followed by Castilla y León (28.5%) and La Rioja (28.4%).

Meanwhile, the lowest percentages of single-person households were in the autonomous cities of Ceuta (16.6%) and Melilla (16.8%) and in Murcia (20.5%).

### Percentage of households by size by Autonomous Regions. Year 2015

	Size of the household				
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 and more
NATIONAL TOTAL	25.0%	30.6%	21.0%	17.7%	5.8%
Andalucía	22.7%	28.5%	21.4%	20.6%	6.8%
Aragón	27.0%	31.5%	20.7%	16.4%	4.5%
Asturias	29.4%	33.9%	21.9%	11.6%	3.1%
Balears, Illes	24.1%	31.7%	20.6%	17.1%	6.6%
Canarias	23.6%	28.9%	22.8%	17.6%	7.0%
Cantabria	27.3%	30.5%	21.6%	16.0%	4.6%
Castilla y León	28.5%	32.3%	20.2%	15.2%	3.8%
Castilla - La Mancha	23.3%	29.5%	20.7%	20.4%	6.1%
Cataluña	25.0%	31.8%	20.6%	16.8%	5.7%
Comunitat Valenciana	25.8%	30.8%	21.2%	17.3%	4.8%
Extremadura	25.3%	30.2%	20.5%	19.1%	4.9%
Galicia	24.6%	31.1%	22.5%	15.5%	6.3%
Madrid, Comunidad de	25.6%	30.5%	20.3%	17.6%	6.0%
Murcia	20.5%	28.6%	21.2%	20.9%	9.0%
Navarra	26.6%	29.9%	19.7%	18.3%	5.5%
Basque Country	26.9%	32.2%	20.6%	16.4%	3.9%
La Rioja	28.4%	31.2%	20.1%	15.8%	4.6%
Ceuta	16.6%	21.7%	21.6%	20.7%	19.4%
Melilla	16.8%	22.4%	17.4%	22.5%	20.8%

## Methodological note

The Continuous Household Survey (ECH), launched in 2013, is a continuous sample survey providing information annually on the basic demographic characteristics of the population, the households it comprises and the dwellings they inhabit.

The ECH is considered the reference source at the INE regarding the characteristics of households, as it provides information on the number of households by size and composition and also on ways in which people cohabit.

The annual sample investigated is 1,600 census sections distributed throughout the national territory and 65 postal addresses per section, of which about 70% are occupied dwellings. The effective sample in 2015 was 57,530 households (the 2014-2015 cumulative sample was 114,684). The two-stage stratified sampling, with the first stage units being the census sections and those of the second stage being the existing postal addresses in the section.

The information is collected with a sequential multi-channel system that includes interviews by Internet (CAWI), telephone (CATI), paper questionnaires through the mail and personal interviews with a laptop (ICSC). The rate of collection of information through the various channels in 2015 was: 24% by internet, 32% by phone, 20% by mail and 24% through visits by INE agents.

With the sample for one year the survey can provide data at national and autonomous region level. Accumulating the sample for two full years (over 110,000 households) can also provide data disaggregated by province.

### Data provided

The information presented is, on the one hand, the processing of the sample for a full year (2015) and the data therefore refer to the average for the year (it can be considered relative to 1 July). These data are offered for the national total and by autonomous region. But in addition to publishing the data referring to the average for 2015, data are also published relating to 1 January 2015, adding together the samples for two full years (2014 and 2015). This sample size allows us to offer data by province.

### Definitions

Household: is the person or group of persons living in a family home.

Family nucleus: Intermediate hierarchical unit between the inhabitant and the household. It can be classified into four types: couple without children, couples with one or more children, parent with one or more children, and mother with one or more children. In order to be considered part of the family nucleus of their parents, children must not have a partner and must not have any children who live with them.

Family dwelling: Dwelling where one or more people live, not necessarily linked by kinship and who do not constitute a collective establishment.